AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A master guide table for a digital broadcast protocol comprising:

a version number for each event information table transmitted in a transport stream of the digital broadcast; and

a second identifier, distinct from the version number, the second identifier comprising identification information indicating whether contents of an event information table in a bit stream syntax are shifted in time or changed.

Claim 2. (previously presented) The master guide table of claim 1, further comprising:

a version and packet identification number (PID) for each table, including the event information table, defined in a program and system information protocol (PSIP) for a digital broadcast.

Claim 3. (previously presented) The master guide table of claim 1, further comprising:

at least one reserved field, wherein the identification information indicates, by allocating at least one bit of the reserved field, whether the contents of the event information table are shifted in time or changed.

Claim 4. (previously presented) The master guide table of claim 3, wherein the reserved field is situated in a "for_loop" statement in the master guide table bit stream syntax.

Claim 5. (original) The master guide table of claim 3, wherein the bit value is "0" when the event information table is merely shifted, and "1" when the event information table is changed.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A method of broadcasting using a master guide table for a digital broadcast protocol, the method comprising:

(a) preparing, at a transmitting side, a present event information table comprising contents pertaining to a broadcast event;

(b) preparing, at the transmitting side, a master guide table for the digital broadcast protocol, the master guide table including a version number for the present event information table, and a second identifier, distinct from the version number, the second identifier comprising identification information which indicates whether the contents of the present event information table in a bit stream syntax are shifted in time or changed;

(c) transmitting the master guide table and the present event information table to a receiving side;

(c) receiving, at the receiving side, the master guide table and the present event information table, and parsing the identification information and the present event information table; and

(d) selectively updating a database having parsed contents of a previous event information table with the parsed contents of the present event information table in accordance with the parsed identification information.

Claim 7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the selective updating step (d) does not update the database with the parsed contents of the present event information table when the parsed identification information indicates that the present event information table is shifted in time, while updating the database with the parsed contents of the present event information table when the parsed identification information indicates that the present event information table is changed.

Claim 8. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the identification information comprises at least one bit of a reserved field of the master guide table.

Claim 9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the bit has a value of 0 when the contents of the present event information table are shifted, and has a value of 1 when the contents of the present event information table are changed.

Claim 10. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the transmitting step (c) comprises:

preparing at least one event information table based on the present time using event information;

allocating a program identification PID value and a version number for each event information table and including the identification information in the bit stream of the master guide table (MGT); and

transmitting the master guide table to the receiving party after multiplexing the master guide table with an audio transport bit stream and a video transport bit stream.

Claim 11. (original) The method of claim 10, wherein the identification information is included in a reserved field of the master guide table.

Claim 12. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein the event information table is prepared for each channel, each table comprising an event title, an event start time and an event end time for the event, and an event caption.

Claim 13. (currently amended) In a digital television receiver, a method of providing an electronic program guide, comprising:

receiving a digital broadcast signal comprising a master guide table and an event information table, the master guide table comprising a version number for each event information table transmitted in a transport stream of the digital broadcast and a second identifier, distinct from the version number, comprising identification information which indicates whether the contents of the event information table in a bit stream syntax are shifted in time or changed;

parsing the master guide table;

retrieving identification information from the parsed master guide table indicating whether contents of the event information table are ~~actually changed or only~~ shifted in time or changed; and

in accordance with the parsed identification information, parsing the event information table and selectively updating a database for the electronic program guide with the parsed contents of the event information.

Claim 14. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the database is not updated with the parsed contents of the event information table when the parsed identification information indicates that the present event information table is shifted in time, while the database is updated

with the parsed contents of the event information table when the parsed identification information indicates that the event information table is changed.

Claim 15. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein retrieving the identification information comprises reading a value of a bit assigned in a reserved field in the master guide table.

Claim 16. (original) The method of claim 13, wherein the bit has a value of 0 when the contents of the present event information table are shifted, and has a value of 1 when the contents of the present event information table are changed.